

3. The third step—the outward step is the last step. Did Joseph's brethren carry out their wicked project? On his arrival, they seized the poor unoffending boy, and threw him down into a deep pit, and left him there to die of hunger and grief. Shortly after, some travelling traders coming along that way, they concluded to pull him out of the pit, and sell him into slavery. This they did; and, then killing a kid, they dipped the poor boy's coat in the blood, and carried it home to his father, as a proof that he had been eaten by wild beasts. This is the guilty act; and only guilty actions do the laws of men punish. Human laws are designed to protect society, and they punish according to the injury done. God's laws go a great way beyond the act; they would stop wrong in the beginning. God looks at the heart as the real seat of right and wrong; and He would have everything clean and pure there. Therefore He judges people by their sinful feelings or thoughts. He says, "Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer." The root of all evil is in the sinful thought.